

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUB: KAGNEW 4: ITALIAN REPORTS

REFS: A) ROME 14087 B) ADDIS ABABA 11549 C) ROME 13869

1.. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPTED FROM SEPTEMBER 28 L' ESPRESSO  
ARTICLE BY MARGHERITA PAOLINI ENTITLED " NEXT YEAR AT ASMARA.

2. (DATELINED "ERITREAN UPLAND PLAIN)

"DURING THE NIGHT OF FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 12 A COMMANDO OF THE  
ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT (PRIOPLE'S FORCES WING) ATTACKS THE  
TRACK B STATION, OPERATIONAL CENTER OF THE U.S. KAGNEW STATION,  
AT THE GATES OF ASMARA. 9 ARE KILLED, 23 WOULDDED AND AT  
THE END THE GUERRLAS GO AWAY TAKING WITH THEM TWO U.S.  
TECHNICIANS AND SIX ERITREAN TECHNICIANS: ALL SEIZED."

3. "ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO, ON THE NIGHT OF JULY 13 , AT THE  
END OF THE SECOND OPERATIONAL SHIFT, A LAND ROVER LEAVES THE  
BASE AND HEADS FOR ASMARA. AFTER HAVING COVERED A FEW  
HUNDRED METERS, THE CAR IS INTERCEPTED BY THE FRONT'S GUERRILLA  
AND WITH ARMS LEVELLED THEY TELL THE DRIVER TO GO BACK TO  
THE BASE. A QUARTER OF AN HOUR LATER, THE LAND ROVER  
LEAVES THE BASE UNDISTRUBED CARRYING TWO VALUABLE HOSTAGES:

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ONE IS AN AMERICAN, STEVE CAMPBELL, CHIEF INSPECTOR OF THE

TRACK B TRANSMISSION CENTER AND DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE ENTIRE KAGNEW STATION.; THE OTHER ONE IS JAMES HARREL, ALSO AN AMERICAN, HEAD OPERATOR OF THE COMMUNICATIONS STATION. "

4. (DESIRE TO MINIMIZE PUBLICITY IS RELATED TO) "THE POSSIBLE REACTION ON THE PART OF AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION IN SEEING THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF EXPERTS" ABROAD. (THIS HAS A BEARING ON) AMERICAN ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS TO BE SENT TO SINAI TO GUARANTEE PEACE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL IN SPITE OF THE THREATS MADE BY PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAAS. "

5. "MORE OR LESS ON AUGUST 25, WE MET STEVE CAMPBELL AND JAMES HARREL IN A MILITARY BASE OF THE FRONT, IN THE HEART OF ERITREA.

6. "A FEW DAYS AGO, ON THE MORROW OF THE LAST KDNAPPING, GENERAL BANTI, PRESIDENT OF THE DIRG, TRIED OT SUSTAIN THE VERSION ACCORDING TO WHICH THE MAERICAN BASE IN ERITREA IS ALMOST COMPLETELY INOPERATIVE AND THAT IN ANY CASE IT WILL BE CLOSED WITHIN THIS YEAR (THE YEAR IN ETHIOPIA HAS JUST BEGUN AND WILL END IN SEPTEMBER 1976. ) BUT ONE CAN DIND A RELIABLE DENIAL OF THSDHSTATEMENTS IN THE LONG RALK WE HAD WITH THE TWO KIDNAPPED AMERICANS. "

"Q. WHAT ARE THE LOGISTIC CAPACITIES OF THE KAGNEW STATION?"

"A. THE OPERATIONAL CENTER OF THE KAGNEW STATION IS THE TRACK B STATION WHIICH HAS 16 CHANNELS: HALF OF THEM IS CONSTANTLY OPEN ON TWO FUNDAMENTAL CIRCUITS, THE NATIONAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (NC) AND THE DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (DC) THE OTHER 8 CHANNELS CAN BE USED IN SPECIAL CASES OF STRATEGIC INTERCEPTIONS OR FOR PERIODIC EXPLORATORY OPERATIONS ON CERTAIN WAVELENGTHS. THROUGH THE CHANNELS THAT ARE CONTINUOSLY WORKING, THE TRACK B STATION RECEIVES SIGNALS ESPECIALLY FROM: THE MEDITERRANEAN (THROUGH THE U.S.BASES OF ROTA, IN SPAIN, OF MAKRI, INGREECE, OF BERNITZ IN WEST GERMANY) AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST (THROOUGH THE NETWORK OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSIES) THE PERSIAN GULF (VIA SATELLITE) AND FINALLY SHIPS WHICH CRUISE ON THE RED SEA AND NORTH UNCLASSIFIED

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INDIAN OCEAN AREAS. THE INFORMATION (DEPENDING ON THEIR NATURE OR ON THE SPECIFIC CONNECTION REQUESTS WE RECEIVE) IS SENT BOTH DIRECTLY TO THE UNITED STATES (ON THE LINES OF THE PENTAGON, THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE) AND TO THE REGIONAL COORDIANTION CENTER FOR AFRICA( AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA) AND TO THE ONE FOR THE MOVEMENTS OF THE 7TH FLEET IN THE INDIAN OCEAN (THE COMMUNICATIONS AND NUCLEAR SUBMARINE BASE OF THE U.S. NAVY AT DIEGO GARCIA) . MOREOVER,THE TRACK B STATION

CAN SUPPLY AT ANY TIME A DIRECT COMMUNICATION LINE BETWEEN THE U.S. PRESIDENT'S PLANE (OR THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S PLANE) AND WASHINGTON WHENEVER THEY TRAVEL IN AFRICA OR IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

"Q. HAVE THE PERSONNEL CUTS AT THE KAGNEW STATION, ANNOUNCED JOINTLY BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT, REDUCED THE OPERATIONAL CAPACITY OF THE BASE?

"A. ABSOLUTELY NOT. THIS CUT IS DUE TO THE RECENT INSTALLATION OF NEW RECEIVING AND TRANSMITTING SYSTEM. A COMPUTERIZATION PROCESS HAS BEEN INSTALLED.

"Q. IS THE KAGNEW STATION EQUIPMENT USED ALSO BY THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT?

"A. NOT ON A STRATEGIC-MILITARY PLANE. WE PROVIDE ETHIOPIA REGULARLY WITH A RADIO ASSISTANCE SERVICE FOR ITS NAVY, WITH A SERVICE FOR COMMUNICATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND WITH METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION. "

7. "IN VIEW OF THE POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND THE CLIMATE OF MILITARY COLLAPSE OF THE ETHIOPIAN REGIME, THE UNITED STATES' COMMITMENT BECOMES AN IRREPLACEABLE CONDITION FOR THE DIRG'S SURVIVAL.

8. "DURING OUR STAY IN ERITREA, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO NOTE THAT THE GUERRILLAS' FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND ACTION IS PRACTICALLY UNLIMITED, WHICH MINIMIZES SAFETY MEASURES ALSO FOR OUTSIDE VISITORS.

9. (ARE THOSE TWO HOSTAGES WORTH PEACE?)

"STEVEN COLLEN CAMPBELL FROM SAN LEANDRO, CALIFORNIA, REGISTRATION NO. [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 12 SEP 2013] USN, CHIEF INSPECTOR OF THE TRACK B TRANSMISSION CENTER OF THE KAGNEW STATION. RECORD OF SERVICE: SEVEN YEARS IN THE U.S. NAVY AS ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN. HE SPENT UNCLASSIFIED

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MOST OF THIS TIME AT THE U.S. NAVAL BASE OF ROTA IN SPAIN AND WAS THEN TRANSFERRED TO THE KAGNEW STATION AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE BASE.

"JAMES J. HARREL, FROM MILWAUKEE, REGISTRATION NO. [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 12 SEP 2013], HEAD OPERATOR OF THE TRACK B TRANSMISSION CENTER. RECORD OF SERVICE: 20 YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE FROM 1954 TO 1974 AT U.S. BASES IN GERMANY JAPAN (OKINAWA BASE FROM 1963 TO 1965) IN VIETNAM (FROM 1970 TO 1972) IN ERITREA (KAGNEW STATION FROM 1972 TO 1974. SINCE 1975 HEAD OPERATOR IN HIS CAPACITY AS "CIVILIAN EXPERT"). VOLPE

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